

Sea of fans show their true colours

Jamie First

Garbage bags and beanies were de rigueur – but the ominous grey skies failed to dampen spirits at Albert Park.

Formula One fans provided a colourful spectacle, wearing their allegiances on their shirts, atop heads and even painted on their faces.

The deafening roar of engines racing around the track fuelled excitement for home-grown and international revheads, many draped in their hero's flags.

There was the occasional drizzle of rain, but the crowd came prepared in plastic ponchos, beanies, scarfs and gloves.

But some were forced to get creative, fashioning raincoats out of garbage bags.

A group of men on a blokes' trip were decked out in matching fluorescent orange plastic, turning to tinnies to fend off the cold.

Shaun Clough, 43, from Adelaide, said it was the first time he and his mates had been to the Australian Grand Prix.

“We thought we would come over as a group, have a boys' weekend, a few beers and a good time,” he said.

For besotted 13-year-old Keira Johannessen, the Grand Prix was not so much about cars, but the drivers.

More specifically, Mexican McLaren driver Sergio Perez.

“He's the best. He's so cute and a really nice person,” Keira said.

She had made the journey from Brisbane with mother Rhondel, 45, father Bruce, 49, and brother Erik, 10.

“I love it so much because to me it represents excellence,” Mrs Johannessen said.

“Even when the drivers win, they continually strive for perfection and look at ways of improving themselves and their cars.”

Deniz Kaman, 33, from Sydney, was undeterred by the rain.

“When the F1s go past and you see the cars and hear the engines, it's always a high-class event,” Mr Kaman said.

“Of course I don't mind staying out in the rain, provided the cars come out.

“We've brought ponchos, umbrellas and everything we need... we're not made of salt, so we'll be right.”